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PACKET FORMAT IN HUB FOR
PACKET DATA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A packet data communication network employs a local switch, router or bridge
device functioning to transfer packets between segments of a larger network. When
packets enter this device, an address translation is performed to generate local source
and destination addresses which are much shorter than the globally-unique addresses
10 contained in the packet as dictated by the protocol. These local addresses are inserted
in a header that is added to the packet, in addition to any header already contained in
the packet. This added header travels with the packet through the local switch, router
or bridge device, but then is stripped off before the packet is sent out onto another
network segment. The added header may also contain other information, such as a
15 local name for the source and destination segment (link), as well as status information
that is locally useful, but not part of the packet protocol and not necessary for
transmission with the packet throughout the network. Local congestion information,
results of address translations, and end-of-message information, are examples of such
status information.

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